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PATENT APPLICATION

*IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE*

*Group:* Unknown  
*Attorney*  
*Docket:* 26502-67310  
*Applicant:* Plouhar, et al.  
*Invention:* TISUE GRAFT CONSTRUCT FOR  
REPLACEMENT OF  
CARTILAGENOUS STRUCTURES  
*U.S. Serial No.:* Unknown  
*U.S. Filing Date:* January 23, 2001  
*Examiner:* Unknown  
*Express Mail Label No.:* EL 230 258 235 US  
*Date of Deposit:* January 23, 2001

## **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-captioned application applicants

#### In the Specification

After the title, please insert the following paragraph:

#### - - Cross Reference to Related Applications

This application is a divisional application of U.S. patent application serial No. 08/913,771, filed December 17, 1997, which is a U.S. national

4, 1997, which is a continuation-in-part of and claims priority to U.S. patent application serial No. 08/628,773, filed April 5, 1996, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,788,625. --

**In the Claims**

Please cancel claims 1 - 48.

Please add new claims 49 -54 as follows:

49. A method of reconstructing a joint having two bones separated by cartilaginous material, said method comprising

removing a portion of the cartilaginous material to create a defect site;

positioning an anatomically shaped reconstructive structure comprising multiple layers of submucosa and having a thickness of about 1 to about 12 millimeters adjacent to said defect site; and

securing said reconstructive structure to said defect site.

50. The method of claim 49 wherein said cartilaginous material is hyaline cartilage.

51. The method of claim 49 wherein said cartilaginous material is elastic cartilage.

52. The method of claim 49 wherein said cartilaginous material is fibrocartilage.

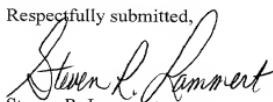
53. The method of claim 49 wherein the defect site comprises bleeding bone.

54. The method of claim 53 further comprising the step of positioning a barrier layer between said bleeding bone and said reconstructive structure, securing said barrier layer to said bleeding bone and securing said reconstructive structure to said barrier layer.

**REMARKS**

The foregoing amendment adding a cross reference to related applications is submitted to make a proper priority claim under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 121 to the related nonprovisional applications. Claims 1- 48 have been canceled. New claims 49 -54 have been added. Support for these claims is found throughout the specification and particularly in claims 42 - 45 as originally filed. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. This application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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